Vol. VIII. Numb. 47

THE OBSERVATOR.

Objection againſt the Obſervator, *on Account of the* Palatines, *anſwer'd. The Increaſe of People a Bleſſing, and the leſſening of them a Curſe, prov'd from Scripture. A Compariſon betwixt* England *and* Iſrael, *as to People, Territory, and Trade. A Rebuke to thoſe who turn off our own Poor to employ the* Palatines, *ſince the Government takes Care to provide for the latter otherwiſe. Sufficient Proviſion made by Pariſh-Rates and our Laws for our Poor, if duly apply'd and obſerv'd.* 200000 l. *per An. given unneceſſarily to Vagrants in* England. *Inſolence and Idleneſs of Servants and Journey-men fit to be provided againſt. Abuſes in collecting former Briefs inſtanc'd, that they may be avoided in thoſe for the* Palatines.

From Saturday, July 9. to Wednesday, July 13. 1709.

Country-m. THO' I find ſome People are very angry at what you have writ about employing the *Palatines* here, Maſter, and give you hard Names for it, yet others are well pleas'd, and ſay, you act the Part of a good Chriſtian and Country-man, and are convinc'd by what you ſaid in your laſt, that we have improvable Ground enough in *Great Britain*, to employ and maintain double the Number of Inhabitants we have at preſent; and by that Means the general Rental of the Nation might be doubl'd in a few Years, as it has been almoſt trebl'd in the laſt Century; which could not have been done, had not our People been encreas'd or employ'd in Proportion.

Obſ. I don't value the Objections of thoſe Men, *Roger*, who ſhut their Eyes and Ears againſt Demonſtration, and not only reject the Authority and Reaſons of ſome of the Greateſt Men we ever had in *England*, but that of God himſelf, who has told us by the Mouth of the wiſeſt King ever the World ſaw, *That in the Multitude of People, is the King's Honour; but in the Want of People, is the Deſtruction of the Prince*, Prov. 14. 28. An Encreaſe and Multiplication of People, has, by all Nations of the World, ever been look'd upon as a Bleſſing, and the Diminution of them a Curſe. *Abraham*, *Jacob*, and others of the Patriarchs, were given to underſtand it ſo by God himſelf, when he promis'd their Poſterity a great People, and to make them apprehend it the better, told 'em they ſhould be like the Stars of the Heaven and the Sands of the Sea for Multitude. *Joab*, tho' an ill Man, yet being an able Statesman and General, was ſenſible that the Number of Subjects was a Bleſſing; and therefore, tho' he oppos'd *David's* numbering of his People, pray'd, *that how many ſoever they were, God would add a hundred Fold to them*, tho' we find, that in *Iſrael* and *Judah* there appear'd by that Muſter to be 1300000 valiant Men, beſides thoſe of the Tribes of *Levi* and *Benjamin*, that were not number'd; and yet, according to Sir *Walter Raleigh*, Dr. *Heylin*, and other Geographers, the whole Country was not above 200 Miles long, and 80 broad, which is 120 Miles ſhort of *England* in Length, and as much ſhort of it in Breadth, and yet their Number of fighting Men was much greater; for ours, according to Mr. *King*, the *Lancaſter* Herald's Scheme, is not above 1300000, whereas they had 1300000 in ten of their Tribes: And even in *Solomon's* Time, when they flouriſh'd moſt, their naval Trade was nothing comparable in Extent to ours; nor is it probable they employ'd a Quarter of the People in Navigation that we do; ſo that the much greater Extent of our Territories and Trade, is more than a ſufficient Ballance for what their Country exceeded ours in Fruitfulneſs, by a particular Bleſſing: And notwithſtanding they were more prolifick than we, becauſe of the peculiar Promiſe that God made to the Patriarchs to multiply their Poſterity like the Sand of the Sea, and becauſe of the Polygamy which was allow'd them, ſo that none of their adult Women were unprovided, yet by God's expreſs Command they were oblig'd to be kind to Strangers; and every one that knows the Hiſtory of the Bible, or has read *Joſephus*, muſt own they had Multitudes of Proſelytes that were Strangers among them.

Country-m. Well, Maſter, I think you have ſaid enough to prove thoſe who clamour ſo much againſt the Government, becauſe of the Act of Naturalization, to be neither good Chriſtians, Politicians, or Subjects, or at leaſt that they labour under woful Prejudices and Miſtakes; but that which heightens their Clamours, as I am inform'd, is, becauſe ſeveral People turn out our own Poor, and employ the *Palatines*, by Reaſon that they work cheaper, which reduces our own Poor to a ſtarving Condition.

Obſ. The Government is ſo far from being chargeable with this, *Roger*, that you ſee her Majeſty allows thoſe poor Strangers a daily Maintenance, 'till they can be provided for by Briefs, or otherwiſe; therefore I think thoſe Men to be perfectly in the wrong, who turn out our own Poor to employ the *Palatines*, becauſe they work cheaper, which may have ill Conſequences; and therefore, in my Opinion, that Practice ought to be reſtrain'd, ſince it can't be call'd Charity, but Covetouſneſs in thoſe who employ the *Palatines* on that Account, or where they can have Poor of our own to employ. The Government has appointed Truſtees to receive Propoſals for ſettling and employing the *Palatines*, but not to take the Bread out of the Mouths of our own Poor. Nor is there any need of it, conſidering, as I have ſaid already, there's ſo much improveable Ground to be cultivated in *Britain*, *Ireland*, and our Plantations, as is three times more than ſufficient to employ our own Poor and the *Palatines* too. But then as to our own Poor, which is made the Pretence of all this Clamour, I muſt repeat what I have ſaid already, that were the Poors Rates levy'd in the ſeveral Pariſhes of *England* rightly manag'd, and the Laws againſt Vagrants duly put in Execution, that Grievance might eaſily be done away. Mr. *King* computes the Number of Vagrants, including Gypſies, Thieves, Beggars, *&c.* to be 30000, and that there is annually given away to thoſe at our Doors, and on our Roads, by a modeſt Computation, to the Value of 300000 *l. per An.* which if thoſe Vagrants were forc'd to work, might be ſav'd to the Nation, and the Product of their Labour, at 40 *s. per* Head, might add 60000 *l. per An.* to the national Stock, over and above their Maintenance.

Country-m. I think you have made it plain, Maſter, that were our Laws for employing the Poor, and puniſhing Vagrants, duly put in Execution, we needed not have one Beggar in *England*; to which give me Leave to add, that if we had better Laws than thoſe at preſent, for regulating menial Servants and Day-Labourers, ſuch as work Journey-work, the Lazineſs and Inſolence of all

of

of 'em, which has so long been complain'd of by Masters and Mistresses, might be prevented, with all their ill Consequences. There's nothing more common than Complaints of that Nature; for besides the Undutifulness and Prodigality of menial Servants, Apprentices, Day-Labourers, and such as work Journey-work, how often do Masters and Mistresses complain, that they are not able to keep Time with their Customers, because their Journeymen will not so much as forbear a Holy-day, or going to a drunken Club, or other idle Diversion, to forward their Business? Or if they do, they oblige their Masters to pay them extravagant Rates for it, to support their Luxury, while the Wives and Children of many of those Journey-men, must either starve at Home, or be a Burden to their Parishes and charitable Neighbours? And yet though that Sort of People will not work six Days in seven, which is a general Rule prescrib'd to all Men in their several Stations by the Word of God, you shall hear them complain loudest for Want of Work, and against any that employ those poor *Palatines*, perhaps because they can't get others to work when they have Occasion for it; and rather than not have their own extravagant Rates, they will chuse to sit idle, and spend what they have sav'd, or too frequently run on Tick, to supply their Luxury.

Olf. Your Observations are but too just, *Roger*, and deserve the immediate Care of Justices of Peace, the Magistrates of Cities and incorporated Societies of Tradesmen, as they do that of our Legislature, when they meet: But I must leave this Subject of providing for the Employment of our own Poor to another Time, because of a Paper sent me about the Misapplication of Money collected by former Briefs, which I am desir'd to take Notice of, in order to prevent the like Abuses when the Brief for the *Palatines* comes to be collected.

Country-m. With all my Heart, Master; I want to hear it.

Obs. 'Tis entitl'd, *The Representation of* Richard Bromley, *touching the Money collected, and in Arrear upon the* Orange *and Storm Briefs, issu'd forth in the Year* 1703, *Roger*; wherein that honest Man represents to the Right Honourable the Commissioners for those Briefs, 'That *Nov.* 11. 1703. a Brief was issu'd for the Relief of the Protestants of *Orange*, who, by the *French* 'King, were oblig'd to quit their Country and Estates, 'or turn Papists; and another was issu'd *Dec.* 23. 1703. 'for the Relief of Sea-mens Widows and Orphans, 'whose Husbands and Fathers were lost in the Storm 'in *Nov.* 1703. whereby the Ministers and Church-'wardens of every Parish were oblig'd to make Collections, and to indorse the Sums in Words at Length on 'the Briefs, and to enter the same in the Parish-Books of 'Accounts, the Church-wardens were to pay the Money so collected to the Minister of every Parish, who 'was to give an Account of it by Letter to his Grace 'the Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury*, and to pay the Money 'to the Registers of the several Arch-Deaconries, who 'were within one Month to pay the same into the 'Chamber of *London*; yet notwithstanding all this 'Care, a great Number of Registers made up no Accounts of the Monies receiv'd by them, and some converted it to their own Use; upon which, by Order of 'his Grace the Lord Arch-Bishop, and other Commissioners, a Bill was exhibited in the *Exchequer* against 'those Persons, to call them to an Account; and tho' 'the said *Richard Bromley* was employ'd by the Commissioners to carry on the Prosecution, and did what 'in him lay to bring the Persons offending to Justice, 'yet he had not the desir'd Success, by Reason of the 'Delays and Obstructions he met with, tho' above 200 *l.* 'had been pay'd into the Chamber of *London*, after he 'commenc'd the Prosecution. And tho' divers Persons, 'and particularly Mr. *George Maydwell*, a Register at '*Peterborough*, were su'd to Contempt, for not appearing nor answering the said Bill, all Punishment upon 'the said Contempts being remitted, as it was pretended by the late Act of Grace, there was a Necessity for 'issuing a new Process against those Offenders: And 'whereas it did appear by a Letter to the said *Bromley*, 'from Mr. *Pennington*, a Deputy-Register at *Northampton*, who was under Prosecution, that he had pay'd 'upwards of 239 *l.* upon the *Orange*-Brief to the said *Maydwell*, and above 48 *l.* on the Storm-Brief, besides 'all other Sums pay'd him by the Ministers of the Parishes within the Arch-Deaconry to which he belongs, 'as well upon the *Orange* as the Storm Briefs; therefore the said *Bromley* recommended to the Commissioners, that the said *Maydwell* might be prosecuted by a 'Bill in the High Court of *Chancery*, and that all other Persons who have not accounted for, and pay'd in 'the Monies come to their Hands, might be made Parties in the said Bill; and if the Commissioners thought 'fit to employ the said *Bromley* in the Prosecution, he 'desir'd Liberty to chuse such Solicitor and Council, 'as he thinks may be most likely to assist him in bringing those Offenders to speedy Justice.

Country-m. That's a dreadful Story indeed, Master. I am satisfy'd such Registers and Collectors are worse than High-way-men, and deserve at least as great a Punishment. I hope this will be a Warning for those that may be concern'd in the *Palatine*-Briefs. But we must adjourn, Master, and talk a little next Time about the *Westminster*-Collectors, whose Frauds have lately made so much Noise. In the mean Time, I hope the Gentleman who wrote to you about that Matter, will send you farther Information, with an Account where the Truth of it may be enquir'd into.

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